

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the title on page 1, line 1, to: TIEG and/or Smad-7 Cell Expression Assay for Compounds to Treat Fibrosis.

Please add the following Abstract at page 34:

ABSTRACT

The invention provides a method for identifying and/or making compounds for use in reducing and/or preventing fibrosis, comprising the steps: providing a cell type capable of expressing TIEG and/or Smad-7; providing a test compound; providing an amount of CTGF or a functional equivalent thereof, exposing the cell type to the test compound; subsequently or simultaneously exposing the cell type to the CTGF or functional equivalent thereof; detecting and/or measuring the expression of Smad-7 and TIEG; and comparing the amount of Smad-7 and/or TIEG expressed in the presence of the test compound with the amount of Smad-7 and/or TIEG produced detected and/or measured in the absence of a test compound; determining if a compound reduces and/or prevents fibrosis on the basis that it causes no change or an increase in Smad-7 expression and/or no change or a decrease in TIEG expression. There is also provided compounds for reducing and/or preventing fibrosis and uses of such compounds.